

## Message Text

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TOSEC 417

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

REF: TOSEC 100

1. HERewith FULL TEXT ANTHONY LEWIS OP-ED COLUMN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, NYTIMES, HEADLINED "THE POLITICS OF HUNGER: II".

2. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WAS EXPLAINING RECENTLY WHY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN SO SLOW TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM. "UNTIL 1972," HE SAID, "WE THOUGHT WE HAD INEXHAUSTIBLE FOOD SURPLUSES AND THE FACT THAT WE HAVE TO SHAPE OUR POLICY DELIBERATELY TO RELATE OURSELVES TO THE REST OF THE WORLD DID NOT REALLY ARISE UNTIL 1973."

3. THAT A MAN AS INTELLIGENT AS HENRY KISSINGER COULD MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT SHOWS THE RESISTANCE OF THE HUMAN MIND - UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT LEAST THE OFFICIAL MIND - TO UNPLEASANT TRUTHS. FOR

THERE HAD BEEN WARNINGS OVER MANY YEARS, FROM RESPECTED SOURCES, THAT THE WORLD WAS APPROACHING FOOD SHORTAGES OF CRISIS DIMENSIONS.

4. TEN, EVEN TWENTY YEARS AGO, THE DEMOGRAPHERS WERE PREDICTING THAT THE ZOOMING WORLD POPULATION CURVE WOULD

SOON INTERSECT THE SLOWLY RISING ONE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. IN 1963 LESTER BROWN, THEN A YOUNG AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT ECONOMIST, SHOWED THAT THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ONCE FOOD EXPORTERS, HAD BECOME LARGE IMPORTERS. THE LIKELY CONSEQUENCES WERE SPELLED OUT IN GRIM DETAIL IN 1967 IN A BOOK BY WILLIAM AND PAUL PADDOCK: "FAMINE 1975"

5. IN THE LAST YEAR THE SIGNS OF A COMING FOOD CRISIS HAVE BEEN VISIBLE TO ALL BUT THE WILLFULLY BLIND. EARLY LAST WINTER EXPERTS SAID THAT FERTILIZER SUPPLIES WOULD BE EXTREMELY SHORT, AND THAT HAS HAPPENED. THE STUDENTS OF LONG-TERM WEATHER TRENDS SAW THE DANGER OF DROUGHT IN THIS COUNTRY AND OF A DAMAGING SOUTHWARD SHIFT OF RAIN-BEARING WINDS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE; THERE HAS BEEN EVIDENCE OF JUST SUCH TRENDS. LESTER BROWN, NOW WITH THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, FORECAST THE LARGEST FOOD DEFICIT IN HISTORY IN SOUTH ASIA; THAT DISASTER IS AT HAND.

6. THE OFFICIAL PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR AMERICAN FOOD POLICY IS, OF COURSE, NOT MR. KISSINGER BUT THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, EARL BUTZ. IN THE LAST YEAR THE DISPARITY BETWEEN MR. BUTZ'S STATEMENTS AND THE REALITIES OF THE FOOD OUTLOOK HAS BECOME ALMOST LUNATIC.

7. LAST APRIL MR. BUTZ SPOKE OF U.S. AGRICULTURE AS "VIRTUALLY DISASTER-PROOF" - A POLLYANNA VIEW SOON DISPELLED BY NATURE IN LATE RAIN AND EARLY FROST. IN MAY, COMMENTING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF STARVATION IN LARGE AREAS OF THE WORLD, HE SAID: "HUNGER IS RELATIVE - IF YOUR LARDER IS EMPTY, YOU CUT BACK SOME." THAT AT THE TIME WHEN 460-MILLION PEOPLE ARE ESTIMATED TO SUFFER FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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ACUTE MALNUTRITION.

8. IN JULY, REJECTING SUGGESTIONS THAT AMERICANS RELEASE GRAIN FOR THE HUNGRY BY EATING LESS MEAT, MR. BUTZ SAID THEY SHOULD EAT MORE. "IS THE WORLD HEADED FOR STARVATION?" HE ASKED. "HAVE TRADE PATTERNS AROUND THE WORLD BEEN SO DISRUPTED THAT FOOD CANNOT BE MOVED EFFECTIVELY FROM SURPLUS AREAS TO DEFICIT AREAS?...THE

ANSWER IS A GREAT BIG NO;"

9. THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE ABOUT TO CONVENE IN ROME IS TAKING PLACE PRECISELY BECAUSE SERIOUS MEN, AMONG THEM MR. KISSINGER, NOW SEE THE THREAT OF STARVATION ON A SCALE NEVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED BY HUMANITY. AND A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE FACING THE CONFERENCE IS THE IMBALANCE OF TRADE AND WEALTH IN THE WORLD THAT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR

THE POOR COUNTRIES TO FEED THEIR MILLIONS.

10. THE RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT THAT OF THE UNITED STATES ALONE. FOR YEARS JUST ABOUT EVERY GOVERNMENT HAS PREFERRED TO PRETEND THAT THERE WAS NO LONG-TERM FOOD PROBLEM, AND JOINT ACTION IS NECESSARY NOW THAT THE PRETENDING HAS STOPPED.

11. BUT THE UNITED STATES STILL IS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE A MAN WHO SOUNDS SO ASININE AND STONE-HEARTED AS SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND HEAD OF OUR ROME DELEGATION, BUT BECAUSE HIS POLICY HAS PURSUED SUCH NARROW ENDS.

12. AMERICAN POLICY FOR YEARS HAS ENCOURAGED MEAT CONSUMPTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES SO THEY WOULD BUY OUR GRAIN - A CHANGE IN DIET TERRIBLY WASTEFUL OF GRAIN SUPPLIES. OUR TRADE AND PRICING POLICIES HAVE ALSO BEEN DESIGNED TO CREATE RELIABLE CASH CUSTOMERS FOR GRAIN. OUR SHIPMENTS OF FOOD AND FERTILIZER HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY USED FOR SHORT-RUN POLITICAL ENDS.

13. IF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS ARE NOT GOING TO DIE OF STARVATION OVER THE NEXT DECADE, MECHANISMS WILL HAVE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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BE DEVELOPED TO PLAN FOR FOOD SUPPLIES ON A WORLD BASIS - AND TO PAY FOR ENORMOUS SHIPMENTS FROM THE RICH FEW TO THE POOR MANY. THAT IS THE CHALLENGE. IT IS FORBIDDING, BUT ONLY IF IT IS MET WILL THE WORLD HAVE TIME FOR THE LONGER-RUN HOPES OF POPULATION CONTROL AND NEW AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS.

14. THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK THAT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE, THAT MASS STARVATION CANNOT BE AVOIDED. THAT MAY BE. BUT IT IS NECESSARY IN ANY EVENT TO TRY. AFTER WORLD WAR I, IN A DISRUPTED EUROPE, MAYNARD KEYNES WROTE:

15. "MEN WILL NOT ALWAYS DIE QUIETLY. FOR STARVATION, WHICH BRINGS TO SOME LETHARGY AND A HELPLESS DESPAIR, DRIVES OTHER TEMPERAMENTS TO THE NERVOUS INSTABILITY OF

HYSTERIA.....THESE IN THEIR DISTRESS MAY OVERTURN THE REM-  
NANTS OF ORGANIZATION, AND SUBMERGE CIVILIZATION ITSELF IN  
THEIR ATTEMPTS TO SATISFY DESPERATELY THE OVERWHELMING  
NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL. THIS IS THE DANGER AGAINST  
WHICH ALL OUR RESOURCES AND COURAGE AND IDEALISM MUST  
NOW COOPERATE." (END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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